

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A patch for reducing friction between portions of the skin of a person and an object supporting that portion of the skin comprising a patch having a layer of film with an exterior surface having a coefficient of friction substantially equal to that of polytetrafluoroethylene, and a securing member for securing the film into position on one of the object and skin.
2. The patch of claim 1, wherein the securing member comprises a layer of pressure sensitive adhesive on one side of the patch.
3. The patch of claim 1 including a bonded stretch fabric on one side of the film opposite from the exterior surface, said exterior surface providing an interface surface between the portion of the skin and the object.
4. The patch of claim 1 including a layer of a foam material on a side of said film opposite from the exterior surface.
5. The patch of claim 2 and a release paper on the exterior of the adhesive layer.
6. The patch of claim 1 including a plurality of backing layers for the film including a stretch fabric bonded to the film on one surface thereof, a foam layer in a selected region of the patch secured to the fabric, and a pressure sensitive adhesive on at least portions of the patch opposite from the exterior surface for forming the securing member.

7. The patch of claim 6, wherein said patch has an exposed portion of pressure sensitive adhesive surrounding a center portion, the foam layer being exposed in the center portion for application to one of the object and the skin.

8. The patch of claim 1 including a layer of low friction material on a surface of the patch opposite from the exterior surface.

9. The patch of claim 1 including a foam layer between the layer of film and the one of the object and skin.

10. The patch of claim 2, wherein the patch has a plurality of perforations therethrough.

11. The patch of claim 1, wherein the patch is formed with a periphery that is oval.

12. The patch of claim 1, wherein the patch is formed with a rectilinear periphery.

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13. A friction management method for a support object supporting a portion of a human body having support bones, tissue around the support bones and skin on an outer side of the tissue, including selecting pressure regions of high loads when load is carried between the object and the human body supported, applying selected patches of material having low friction surfaces interfaced between the object and the skin in the selected regions.

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14. The friction management method of claim 13, wherein the object comprises a shoe, and the selected regions include the metatarsal-phalangeal joint region.

15. The friction management method of claim 14, wherein the calcaneus region comprises the region supported on low friction surface patches.

16. The friction management method of claim 13, wherein the object comprises a prosthetic device having a socket for receiving a portion of a limb to be supported, and providing patches at specific high load locations between an interior surface of the socket and a supported limb.

17. A method of reducing trauma to tissue supported on an object including steps of selecting a plurality of support regions of high load where shear load on tissue is likely to cause damage, and providing a low friction surface patch between each of the plurality of the regions of high load and an object supporting the tissue.

18. The method of claim 17, including a step of selecting the low friction material to have a coefficient of friction substantially equal to that of polytetrafluoroethylene.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein the selecting step includes identifying support regions where low friction surface patches are omitted.

20. The method of claim 17 including the step of providing a patch having a low coefficient of friction material exposed on oppositely facing support surfaces of the patch.

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